

Gunmen assassinate former Medellin mayor

BOGOTA, Colombia -- Gunmen on Monday assassinated a former mayor of Medellin who crusaded to oust drug cartels from the city, which is the cocaine center of Colombia and the focus of violence in the country's drug war.

Five or six attackers firing 9mm automatic pistols from two cars killed Pablo Pelaez Gonzalez as he was being driven to the local metal products factory he operated, police said.

Pelaez's driver also was killed and a bodyguard was wounded, said a police spokeswoman who refused to be identified.

The killers fled, police said. Radio reports said they were dressed in black.

Colombian television showed bullet holes in the front and rear windshields of Pelaez's white BMW sedan. His personal papers were scattered across the back seat.

Near Medellin, invaders Monday set fire to a farm owned by the head of the government oil company. A similar attack Sunday targeted the ranch of a government official who supports turning over drug traffickers' property to the poor.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher called Pelaez's killing "deplorable and reprehensible."

Pelaez, 45, a former police inspector, was elected mayor of Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city, in 1984 on the Liberal Party ticket, the party of President Virgilio Barco. He left office in 1986.

Pelaez founded a local group called "Love for Medellin," aimed at eliminating drugs and crime.

Last week, the 4th Army Brigade in

Medellin announced the arrests of four suspected leaders of a cocaine-cartel "hit squad" that sarcastically called itself "Love for Medellin."

Barco and Colombia's drug lords have been at war since Aug. 18, when narcotics gangs assassinated the police chief of Medellin and Sen. Luis Carlos Galan, the leading presidential candidate and a cartel foe.

The government retaliated by decreeing emergency powers, under which it has summarily confiscated bank accounts, ranches, airplanes, boats and cars believed to belong to fugitive drug bosses. It extradited one reputed cartel member, Eduardo Martinez Romero, to face trial in the United States.

Martinez Romero was flown to Atlanta to face charges he was involved in the laundering

of millions of dollars of cocaine cash for the Medellin cartel, believed responsible for 80 percent of the cocaine reaching the United States. He pleaded innocent Monday and was ordered jailed without bond.

Drug gangs have responded to the government crackdown with daily bombings, arson and shootings, mostly in Medellin.

The arson attack Monday was on a ranch near Medellin belonging to Andres Restrepo Londono, the head of the government oil company ECOPEL. The oil company said no one was injured.

Justice Minister Monica de Greiff, whose office handles extraditions, returned to Colombia on Sunday night and met Monday with President Barco, her office said.

East Germans reach freedom

PASSAU, West Germany -- Crammed into sputtering sedans and cheering their new freedom, thousands of East Germans reached Bavaria on Monday in a historic exodus permitted by the reform-minded Communist government in Hungary.

More than 2,000 refugees had made the journey from Hungary to Austria and then West Germany by midmorning, with hundreds more streaming in later in the day. News reports said the total could top 10,000.

"I decided on escaping 27 years ago, and today it worked. It's a feeling that's just tops, just wild," said a 40-year-old Leipzig man after crossing into West Germany at Passau.

Single people, couples and families with children and babies made the journey from Hungary to West Germany - by bus, rickety sedans or

motorcycle. Many refugees were cheering and shouting as they reached Bavaria under the blaze of television lights, while their children played with teddy bears handed out by relief workers.

Some tumbled out of compact cars packed with people and jubilantly flashed victory signs after crossing into West Germany.

It was the greatest flood of East German refugees since 1961, the year the Berlin Wall halted the flow to the East.

Hungary's action marks the first time a Warsaw Pact country has aided an exodus of refugees from an allied communist nation. East German leaders expressed outrage at the Hungarian government, and state news media accused it of "organized smuggling of humans."

SAT, ACT scores decline

NEW YORK -- After almost a decade of steady gains, average Scholastic Aptitude Test scores among women and several minority groups slipped last year, The College Board reported Monday.

Overall, scores among the 1,088,223 high school students who took the SAT in 1989 showed little change for the fourth consecutive year. Average verbal scores dropped a point to 427 compared with 1988; math scores were unchanged at 476.

Average composite scores on the ACT Assessment, the college entrance test that predominates in 28 states mostly in the Midwest and West, dipped 0.2 points in 1989 to 18.6. Averages on the four-part exam, assessing English, math, social studies and natural science skills, are scored on a scale of 1 to 35.

Critics for years have accused both tests, especially the SAT, of being biased against women and minorities, and the latest averages again displayed a wide race and gender gap.

White students gained two points on their combined SAT scores to 937 - averaging fully 200 points higher than blacks, whose math-verbal scores were unchanged from the previous year at 737.

Women's combined scores dipped two points to 875; male test-

takers averaged 934, one point higher than a year earlier.

The SAT, sponsored by The College Board and administered by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J., is the predominant college entrance exam in 22 states. The two-part, multiple-choice test is scored on a scale of 200 to 800, with a combined 1600 being a perfect score.

The ACT, taken by 855,171 high school students last year, is administered by American College Testing, headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa. The organization announced that, beginning in October, students will receive 12 scores instead of the current five, including seven new sub-scores in specific content areas of English, math and reading.

College Board President Donald M. Stewart attributed the continued lag in SAT averages among women and minority students to inequities in educational opportunities.

He nonetheless noted that scores among most minority groups have been gaining more rapidly than among whites during the 1980s, at least until this year. Average scores among blacks, for example, have gained 28 points on the math portion of the SAT and 21 points on the verbal since 1979.



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Search is on for 'Tomorrow's' Annie

NEW YORK -- She must be between 3-foot-10 and 4-foot-4, sing loudly and clearly, be able to act and tap dance, look 10 or 11 years old and, of course, not be afraid of dogs.

The search for Broadway's new Annie began Monday morning when 29 little girls walked on stage at the Golden Theater to face Martin Charnin, director of "Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge," the new musical about the world's most famous orphan.

"Why are we doing this mad

thing?" sighed composer Charles Strouse as he prepared to listen to endless renditions of a little melody he wrote called "Tomorrow."

"We should be playing poker."

The girls on hand Monday morning were the first batch of youngsters to audition for Charnin, Strouse, casting director Pat McCorkle, choreographer Danny Daniels and others connected with the \$7 million musical that is to open March 1 on Broadway.

Some girls waited for more than four hours before they were let into

the theater. The audition was open to anyone with enough courage to be there.

Nine-year-old Brandie Gray of Louisville, Ky., and her mother, Teresa, arrived at the theater at 5:30 a.m. to stake out their place in line.

Right behind them was 9-year-old Jill McEachern of Jackson, Miss., who with her mother, Carolyn, showed up at 6:30 a.m. Jill confided she never had appeared in "Annie," but "I watched the movie a lot."

Bush accused of avoiding arms control

MOSCOW -- Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze accused President George Bush on Monday of depriving the world of major arms control agreements by not taking advantage of opportunities created by the Reagan administration.

Shevardnadze made the harsh criticism in an interview with the government daily Izvestia in advance of his Sept. 22-23 meeting with Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

The criticism was remarkable because it dealt not only with arms control but the U.S. attitude toward perestroika, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reform program. It contrasted with generally upbeat comments by Soviet officials lately about U.S.-Soviet relations.

"I think that because of the restrained, indecisive position of the American administration, both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., as well as the entire world community, have lost a lot," Shevardnadze said in the interview.

He contrasted the "constraint and timidity" of the Bush administration on arms control with progress made

during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, which ended in January.

"After recent stormy years, a peculiar lull has set in. The tempo of movement toward new agreements, in any case on the key directions of real nuclear disarmament, don't satisfy us," Shevardnadze said.

The Soviet envoy contrasted the 1987 superpower agreement to eliminate medium-range nuclear weapons with a lack of progress under Bush on pacts to reduce strategic nuclear weapons and ban nuclear weapons tests.

In June, he said, Soviet negotiators entered resumed talks on strategic arms with fresh proposals, but despite "promised 'new ideas,' our American partners frequently preferred to cite a lack of principle decisions in Washington," he said.

The result, Shevardnadze said, has been that the Geneva talks are frozen, "further from an agreement now than during the previous U.S. administration." He told Izvestia the negotiations should have resumed by building on the foundation laid last fall but instead are "going around it without an apparent goal."

A major dispute in the talks has been over U.S. plans for space-based missile defenses. The Soviets want to limit the so-called Star Wars, or Strategic Defense Initiative.

Disagreement also persists on long-range nuclear-tipped cruise missiles based at sea. Moscow wants to include them in a treaty but Washington refuses, saying compliance could not be reliably verified.

On domestic policy, Shevardnadze said some people in the United States want to stop perestroika because they think that would strengthen the U.S. position in the world. Among them, he said, are people who hope for the "restoration of capitalism here and the undermining of the Soviet federation." He did not identify the critics.

The foreign minister also lamented "an unrealized series of possibilities" for U.S.-Soviet economic ties and accused Washington of being "one of the participants in the senseless bloodletting" in Afghanistan.

The United States supplies rebels fighting Afghanistan's Marxist government, which in turn is supplied by the Soviet Union.

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